

Transcribed Excerpt from Letter from Patrick Henry to Virginia Delegates in Congress, November 14, 1778

Wmsburg Novr. 14th. 1778.

Gentlemen,

The Executive power of this State having been impressed with a strong apprehension of incursions on their Frontier Settlements from the Savages situated about the Illinois & supposing the Danger would be greatly obviated by an enterprize against the English Forts & possessions in that Country which were well known to inspire the Savages with their bloody purposes against us, sent a Detachment of Militia consisting of one hundred & seventy or eighty men commanded by Col. George Rogers Clarke on that Service sometime last Spring. By Despatches which I have just received from Col. Clarke it appears that his Success has equalled the most sanguine expectations. He has not only reduced Fort Chartres & its dependencies but has struck such a Terror into the Indian Tribes between that Settlement & the Lakes that no less than five of them... have submitted to our Arms[, surrendered?] all their English presents & bound themselves by Treaties and promises to be peaceable in future...

In order to improve & secure the advantages gained by Col. Clarke I propose to support him with a reinforcement of Militia. But this will depend on the pleasure of the Assembly to whose consideration the measure is submitted...

With great Regard I have the Honor to be Gentr. your most obedient Servant

P. Henry